

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Veasey-Ford House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Old Field Point Farm

CITY, TOWN

Elkton☒ VICINITY OFOldfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1 First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. John W. DuckettTelephone #: (215) 923-4588

STREET & NUMBER

314 South Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania

STATE, zip code

19106**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

MarylandLiber #: NDS 13Folio #: 58**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Veasey-Ford House is a ~~two and a half story~~ ^{located} mid ~~to~~ ^{18th} eighteenth century Georgian plan stuccoed brick structure on Old Field Point, which overlooks ^{the} the Elk River. The ^{house} main facade faces south while the axis of the building runs ^{toward the river} east to west.

The main block is ~~two and a half~~ ^{2 1/2} stories ^{ie tall} and three bays ^{wide} by ~~two~~ ^{rooms deep} bays. A ~~story~~ ^{1 1/2} story two-bay kitchen and a half brick section is located on the west end of the house and is ~~two~~ ^{front} bays by ~~1~~ ^{20th} bay. A twentieth century front porch extends across the entire ~~house~~ and is open along the main block and closed-in along the addition. The composition tiled roof is of a medium pitch with ^{10r} internal end brick chimneys. The entire house was stuccoed in the early part of this century; however, the brick underneath the porch is exposed in a couple of areas and English bond is evident.

The main (south) facade is composed of three bays on each floor with a door occupying the central bay of the first and second ^{floors (originally there was a door in the central bay of the second floor also.)} (which is presently a window) floors. The foundation is of uncoursed fieldstone. Above the foundation is an

English bond watertable with ~~basement~~ ^{which} two basement window openings. They retain their heavy mortise and tenon timbers and diamond cross-sectioned vertical ~~bar~~ ^{is exposed} wooden bars. ~~There are visible segmental arches~~ ^A above the opening on the south-west corner. The bond for the rest of the structure ^{is not visible} ~~had not been seen~~ but may ^{are} possibly be Flemish ^{bond} with glazed headers. The window sash is ~~6 over 6~~ ^{6 over 6} and the trim

is a plain half round. The main door has three horizontal panels (now glazed) above two vertical, partially raised panels below the lock rail. A transom is located above the door with its muntins narrow and deep. The door surround is widely fluted on the horizontal and vertical members ^{there are} and square blocks ~~are found~~ in the corners. The door also has a paneled jamb. All the door and window moldings date from a later period, possibly ^{circa} ~~be from the period~~ around 1825-1840.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

cont.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1768

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Veasey-Ford House has had a long and sometimes tumultuous history. The point was originally part of St. John's Maner first patented to Jehn Pate of Virginia by Cecil Calvert in 1664. In 1675 Captain John Kerr became the owner, who in turn sold the land to George Oldfield in 1683. At that time the point was called Welch's Point. George Oldfield was a confidant of the notorious George Talbot, who after murdering Christopher Rousby, was supposed to have hidden on the property in 1684. Sometime around 1700 Oldfield moved to Pennsylvania for in 1703 a legal document concerning horses states his residence as being in Chester County, Pennsylvania. (Land Records Liber 2/359) The property was conveyed from Ephraim Herman to James Veasey in 1716 and then by will to William Veasey in 1753 (Land Records Liber 2/381) William Veasey married Mary Gordon and in 1768 ~~but~~ they built themselves a home on the property. Between 1777 and 1787 the occupancy of the house is unclear but in 1787 John Ford bought the property from Veasey. (Land Records Liber 16/180)

Captain John Ford married Millicent Hyland in 1770. (Vestry p. 334) John was 18 years old and Millicent was 16. The Miller History of Cecil County states that Captain Ford settled across the river from Ford's Landing at Oldfield's Point. (Miller p. 41)

In August of 1777 the British fleet began to disembark troops at the ferry landing nearby. This marked the beginning of the campaign to capture Philadelphia.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reference to architectural description by
 James Wellen Jr. A.I.A.
 Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Paul B. Touart, Historic Sites Surveyor
George W. Lutz, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Cecil County Committee of the MHT 8/9/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Cecil County Courthouse (301) 398-7568

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Elkton Maryland 21921

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Architectural Description continued

2

The ~~eave possesses a~~ plain boxed cornice ~~which dates~~ from this century.

The east facade is without fenestration ^{except for} ~~excluding~~ the small attic ventilator which used to be window. A match ^{ing window} ~~to it~~ on the other side of the ~~brick~~ chimney stack has been closed up. A drip course ~~is found on the gable end and it~~ probably once protected a pent eave. The outstanding detail remaining on the east facade is the slate datestone with the initials ^V W M and the date 1768. A tree of life symbol issues out of the V and continues up into the arched top. The initials stand for William and Mary Veasey, who probably built the house in 1768.

The north facade is identical to the south facade, ^{that} ~~except for~~ the second floor central bay ~~which is a window that is located lower than the other two windows to~~ ^{as it} light the stairway. The centrally located first floor door has an arched transom, which has been closed up, and a six-panel door with two panels now glazed. The lot slopes westward on the north side, ~~and exposing~~ the northwest basement window.

^{1 1/2-} The story ~~and a half~~ brick addition is located on the west gable end ~~and~~ has seen radical change. The structure rests on a fieldstone foundation, and the walls are roughly laid ⁱⁿ ~~a~~ common bond with headers about every eighth course. The ~~wing~~ floor was probably considerably lower, at or near grade, and traces of a steeper roof appear in the stucco of the ^{west wall of the} main block's west wall. ^{suggesting a} This would have allowed a second floor in the wing. Presently the first floor is raised to meet the same level as the first floor of the main block. The roof to the wing has a medium pitch and is sheathed with ~~a~~ composition tile. An interior end ~~brick~~ chimney is located in the west gable. Entrance may be gained through either of two doors located opposite each other in the eastern bay of the north and south walls. The ^{door and window} ~~trim to~~ ^{is plain} the windows have the doors, and six-over-six sash, ~~is plain.~~

^{west} The gable end of the main block possesses an ~~identical~~ drip course and a modern cement block stove stack. The gable end windows flanking the chimney stack have both been covered up.

Architectural Description continued

3

~~Internally~~ a central hall extends through the house on both story^s and is flanked on both sides by two rooms, typical of all center hall Georgian plans.

An open dog-leg stair rises, ~~with an intermediate landing to the second floor~~, and an ~~and from there, enclosed~~ ^{stair leads} to the attic ~~floor~~ in the north end of the hall. The lower flight of each stair to the first landing is quite steep, the risers and treads being almost equal. From the landing to the next floor the tread dimensions are dramatically greater than the riser dimensions. Another oddity to this hall is the presence of a drop of two steps when exiting through the north door. The cellar stair entrance and north door are located on this landing. The cellar door retains its wrought HL hinges with leather washers and six-panel door. The main stair has a slim molded hand rail supported by a slightly tapered newel and plain rectangular balusters.

The rooms off the hall contain a lot of early woodwork which probably dates from the construction of the house in 1768. The main parlor ~~is the~~ (southwest room) ~~at present and~~ has the most elaborate corner fireplace. The mantel has Federal lines without the fine details. There is a molded architrave around the fireplace opening which supports a frieze with plain projecting pilasters and a wider central block. Above the frieze the bed and shelf molding break out at each intersection with the projecting pilasters and central block. Molded chair rail and early architraves on some doors remain. The entrance between the southwest and northwest parlors was expanded. The fireplace in the northwest room has been removed but a support in the cellar still exists to prove its earlier presence. Paneled window reveals were probably added in the 1825-1840 period. The other two rooms on the first floor retain their mantels, six-panel doors, and door architraves. Each fireplace has an architrave around the opening, a plain frieze, bed molding, and a molded shelf. A simple chair rail ^{survives} ~~does remain~~ in the northeast room, ^{but} and not in the southeast.

Architectural description continued

4

The second story plan is identical to the first, except for a small room at the head of the stair, ~~which is~~ presently a bathroom. The closed up door is located in this room and consists of the ^a single pane above and the jib door below. ~~A peg board is found on the interior east wall.~~ Three rooms on the second floor retain their early mantels. They differ slightly from the mantels in the lower two rooms in that they have a narrower frieze and slightly different bed molding and mantel shelf. The door architraves differ ^{slightly} ~~a little~~ but are basically the same.

The attic is unfinished and has revealed much about the alterations to the structure. The roof was probably rebuilt about 1825-1840, along with the rest of the renovations. The rafters ~~are~~ not continuous plate to ridge; the lower rafters span only from the main walls to the collar beams. Newer rafters continue from the collar beams to the peak. Additions to the brick gable ends and outlines on the inner face of the chimney indicate that the roof was ^{formerly} ~~a~~ of a slightly shallower pitch.

^{20th} A twentieth century watercolor depicts the house with the dormers on the south slope of the roof and a double porch on the south facade, all of which have disappeared.

In the uncoursed fieldstone cellar the straight sawn first floor framing remains intact. Much of the first floor pine flooring remains under a later hardwood covering. A stone wall extends across the cellar from east to west, and ^{it} ~~divides the cellar~~ into two rectangular rooms. Diagonal chimney supports are located in each interior corner of the cellar.

Finishes in the west wing, the present kitchen, are simple and ^{date from the 20th} ~~of the twentieth~~ century. A wide chimney breast suggests a former fireplace ^{the} ~~in~~ west end. A closet north of the chimney probably replaces a stair or ladder to the left room, which is now inaccessible. Beneath the present floor there is a deep crawl space that

Architectural description continued

5

shows the base of a cooking fireplace and the remains of a brick floor. The original support over the fireplace opening is found by looking about knee level in the present closet.

^{The} front porch ~~does extend~~ across the ~~entire~~ south facade of the structure ^{a 19th} and seems to be a later replacement of an ~~earlier nineteenth~~ century porch. The beam above the porch columns appears to be older than most visible elements of the porch. Backless benches ~~are~~ built against the south wall of the house ~~and~~ extending from the south door to the east and west ends of the open porch; Their scrolled ends support a plank seat. A depression in the stucco just below the second floor line suggests an earlier form of the porch. The section of the porch extending across the wing has been screened in and dates from a much later period.

^{frames}
There is a barn on the property which ~~undoubtedly~~ ^{19th} dates from the mid to late nineteenth century, ~~and undoubtedly built for an earlier time when the property~~ ^{has} ~~was an active farm.~~ It ~~is~~ a typical barn plan with a central threshing floor and side aisles for livestock. There are shed additions on the east and west sides for storage. A small outhouse type building is located just east of the main house and is presently used for storage.

Significance continued

2

General George Washington viewed the proceedings from a nearby hilltop and sent the following report to Brigadier General John Armstrong, "the Enemy began to land this mornig about six miles below Head of Elk Opposite the Cecil Court House."

(Fitzpatrick, p. 130) On the British side, Captain Montressor stated that, "the van of the fleet came to anchor at one half past nine in the mornigg and in half an hour had made good their landing." (Johnston, p. 217) The British squadron numbered 256 vessels carrying approximately 17,000 English and Hessian soldiers.

After the troops had landed they made camp in the fields surrounding the ferry and the road leading to Head of Elk. In Johnston's history a copy of Major Andre's map gives the location of troops and of local homes. (Johnston, p. 218) General Knyphausen, according to Andre's map set up his headquarters in the Ford House. On August 27th General Howe marched up the river road to Head of Elk after his army had had some decent rations. Due to the lack of adequate food while on board ship the men were very difficult to control and a certain amount of pillaging occurred. Major Andre said, "The soldiers slaughtered a great deal of cattle clandestinely," (Johnston, p. 332)

At the time of the British invasion of Cecil County John Ford was serving as a member of the local militia. Ford was commissioned a captain in this group on April 21, 1778.

The Tax Commissioner Report of 1783 reveals that the British raided, looted, and partially burnt Captain Ford's house, (Miller, p. 44) Ford requested remuneration due to the damages suffered him by the British.

Captain Ford was an active resident of the county after the end of the war until his death in 1824. Although his tax assessments reveal that he as concerned with secular matters, his main achievements revolved around the Protestant faith of Methodism. In 1788 Bishop Asbury, the first Methodist bishop in America, visited

Significance continued

3

Ford and held a meeting for worship at his residence. (Clark, p. 40) A new Methodist church was formed in North East in 1794 and Ford was one of the original trustees. In Bishop Asbury's journal he describes the winter kitchen of Captain John Ford's by saying, "it was a large brick floored room, with a fireplace eight feet across with a stone bench on each side, there was a long swinging crane. In the jamb of the chimney is an oyster even of a half cylinder shape three feet deep, two feet wide with a door." This quote follows with the remains of the winter kitchen at the present and only further architectural investigation will prove its early appearance.

Significantly,

Along with the historical significance the building is rich in architectural importance. The datestone in the gable end is architecturally important because it firmly dates the remaining eighteenth century woodwork in the house. The probable Flemish bond brick with segmental arches over the windows, the pent eaves along the gable ends and the second floor door tie this building in closely with building patterns in northern Cecil County and Pennsylvania. The Veasey-Ford House is one of a very few early houses remaining in the Oldfield Point area and it remains as a credit to its particular building traditions.

The fourteen acres that accompany the nomination is the amount of land the present owners possess. If it were possible the whole point should be nominated because of its association with the landing and encampment of the British.

Bibliography

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Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Cecil County TOWN Elkton VICINITY Oldfield Point STREET NO. Oldfield Point Road		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY CE-186	
ORIGINAL OWNER Veasey ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER Dr. G. Harlan Wells PRESENT USE tenant house WALL CONSTRUCTION stone with stucco NO. OF STORIES 2		2. NAME "Oldfield Farm House" DATE OR PERIOD 1768 STYLE colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER W & M V	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
<p>OPEN TO PUBLIC no</p> <p>The two story veasey house on Oldfield Point is constructed of stone and covered with stucco and is three bays long and two bays deep. The north center entrance has an elliptical headed fanlight above the door. A one story kitchen wing on a high basement is built off the west gable. The single most outstanding feature about the exterior of the house is a date plaque on the east gable in the familiar tombstone shape and contains the initials ^VW & M, with a tree-like design issuing from the 'V'</p> <p>The house sits on a hill overlooking a ravine which leads to the Elk River.</p> <p>tax map - Rosemary P. McClatchy</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered no Interior good Exterior good			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>  <p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> </div> <div> <p>2-bxw-neg & contact</p> <p>7. PHOTOGRAPH film 4012-3</p> </div> </div>			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. The Upper Shoreman, Sept. 1966, cover.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne Maryland Historical Trust DATE OF RECORD July 29, 1968	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



CE-186 Wm. & Mary Plazey use.

PJB 4/95